

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 AGR-05 OMB-01

COME-00 INT-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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R 271350Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WAHSDC 3566
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 1829

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NG, IR

SUBJECT: NIGER-IRAN RELATIONS

1. IRANIAN AMBASSADOR SHAHROUKH FIROUZ, RESIDENT IN LAGOS, VISITED NIAMEY APRIL 23 - 26 TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS AS IRAN'S FIRST AMBASSADOR TO NIGER. FIROUZ MET WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER APRIL 23, PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS MORNING APRIL 24 AND FOLLOWING CEREMONY HAD 45 MINUTE PRIVATE TALK WITH PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE.

2. AMBASSADOR FIROUZ INFORMS US THAT HE WAS IMPRESSED BY WARMTH OF RECEPTION AND ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR HIM AND BY PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE'S SERIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE. HE SAID THAT DURING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT, LATTER LAID IT ON THE LINE ABOUT NIGER'S CURRENT FOOD DEFICIT, WHICH WAS DIVERTING GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE FROM BUSINESS OF DEVELOPMENT. FIROUZ SAID HE WAS RECOMMENDING TO HIS GOVERNMENT THAT IT RESPOND TO DOUNTCHE'S APPEAL FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE BUT HE WAS NOT SANGUINE OVER RESPONSE IN SHORT TERM BECAUSE OF RECENT BUDGETARY CUTBACKS IN IRAN.

3. ACCORDING TO FIROUZ, KOUNTCHE ALSO DESCRIBED NIGER'S URANIUM RESOURCES AND TOLD FIROUZ THAT GON
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WELCOMED IRANIAN PARTICIPATION IN URANIUMJOINT VENTURE.

FIROUZ SAID HE TOLD KOUNTCHE IRAN MIGHT BE INTERESTED,
POSSIBLY WITH ANOTHER PARTNER WHICH COULD CONTRIBUTE
TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW (MEANING US).

4. COMMENT: FIROUZ APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY
KOUNTCHE AND BY POSSIBILITIES OF COLLABORATION IN URANIUM
EXPLOITATION. HE SPOKE GENERALLY OF IRAN'S PLANS FOR
DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE IN WEST AFRICA INCLUDING NIGER
WHICH HE FOUND DESERVING OF AID BUT FROM NIGER'S POINT
OF VIEW NOTHING OF CONCRETE NATURE SEEMS TO HAVE EMERGED
FROM THIS FIRST OFFICIAL CONTACT.
HECK

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